

HOUSE BILL 2477  
By Sargent

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 13, Part 1, relative to offenses against  
sporting officials.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1, is amended by  
adding a new, appropriately designated section thereto:

**§ 39-13-1\_\_.**

(a) A person commits assault against a sports official who:

(1) Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to a  
sports official during the line of duty;

(2) Intentionally or knowingly causes a sports official, during the  
line of duty, to reasonably fear imminent bodily injury; or

(3) Intentionally or knowingly causes physical contact with a sports  
official during the line of duty and a reasonable person would regard the  
contact as extremely offensive or provocative.

(b)

(1) Assault against a sports official is a Class E felony unless the  
offense is committed under subdivision (a)(3), in which event assault  
against a sports official is a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "sports official" means any  
individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or who serves in  
similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name and is duly  
registered by, or a member of a local, state, regional or national

organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.